



1859 WAS RUGGED

Indians and Hoppers Made Life Strenuous at Heber

Triana Special

HEBER—"The Indians rode down from the mountains today and raided stock for the first time and grasshoppers are moving in; I think we'll have a tough summer to look forward to."

Written in longhand on faded newspaper, this sentence and many others have become a treasured record of Heber's growth since May 1, 1859, when John Crook and 10 other pioneers first moved in from Provo City and began a daily log on happenings.

In addition to straightforward items about personal life, John Crook also faithfully recorded Heber weather until he was 80 years old—then made it a point to hand the job down through three generations—until Grandson Lindsay W. Crook last week went to the Salt Lake weather station to look over his family records.

Volunteer Task

A non-paying volunteer job, keeping weather records for Heber has been "sort of a family affair," according to Mr. Crook, who received the position from an uncle, Heber G. Crook, on April 16, 1930. The Heber cooperative at that time had been officially recognized since 1893.

Now, a part of weather station files, the original Crook journal shows that the setting of Heber was far from an easy undertaking.

"We had no thermometer," he had written, "but took weather as it came, and managed to harvest 1000 bushels of grain on Sept. 4 of that first year." It snowed, until May in that year," he added.

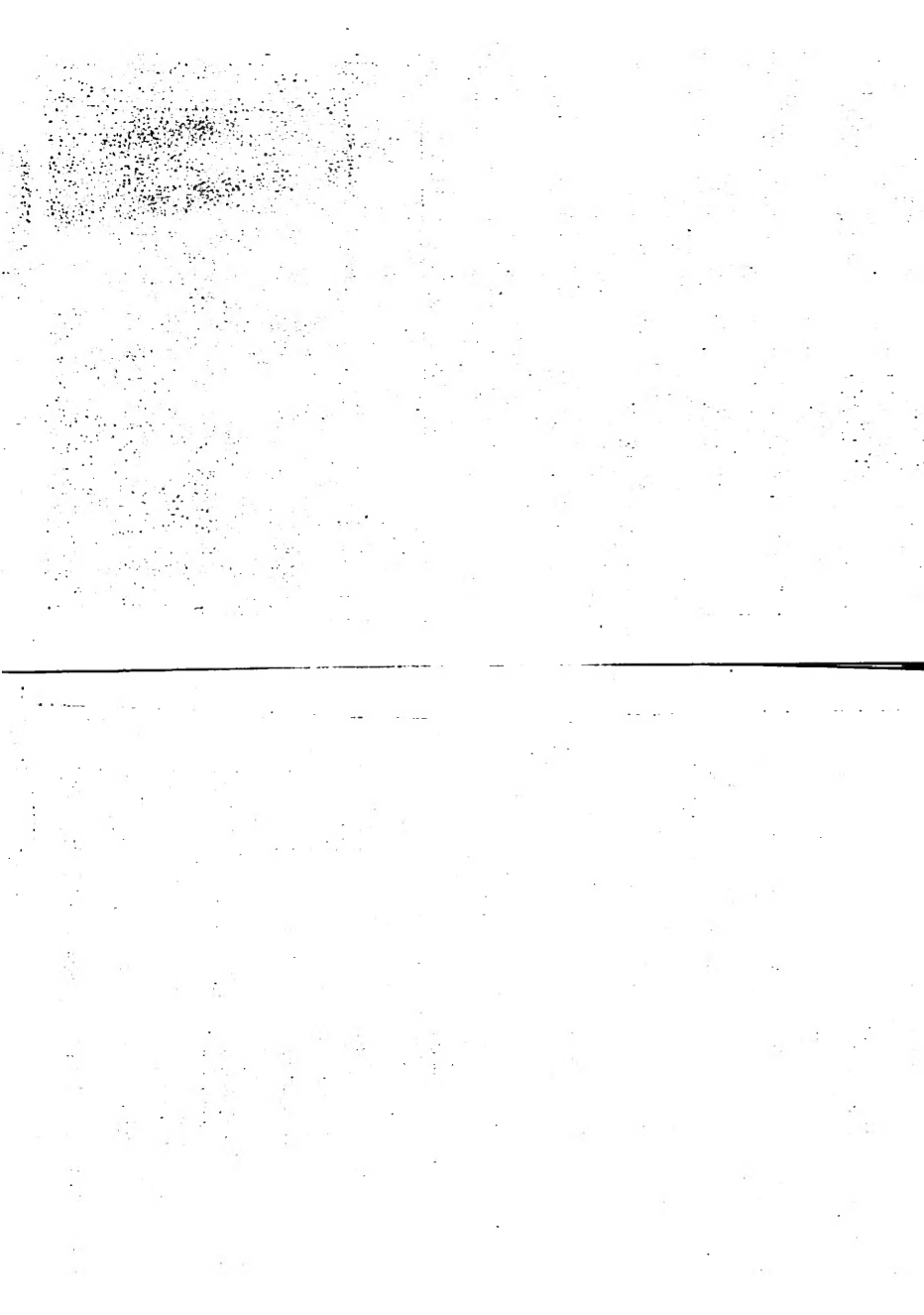
Following the initial Blackhawk raid on stock which completely ruined some of the settlers, Mr. Crook wrote, Col. R. T. Burton arrived from Salt Lake City to help organize the militia. On Aug. 11, 1859, however, Chief Tabby arrived in Heber with a party of braves, "talked business," and promised to convince Blackhawk to keep away. "We all smoked a peace pipe," Mr. Crook noted, but added, "a few of the braves got pretty mad when we ran out of tobacco."

Fight Grasshoppers

When Indian raiding parties moved into southern counties, another war with grasshoppers followed in June, 1861, according to the journal. The pioneers fought them with brush fires and water-filled trenches around the grain fields, but lost much in produce because of it.

Lindsay W. Crook recalls that as a child he helped his uncle keep weather records, while Grandfather Crook worked on the journal, finally completing it before he died.

One of an 11-child family, Lindsay W. Crook has no son to "take over" the weather task when he retires, but indicated that he would turn it over to one of eight brothers who will "take it from there, and keep it in the Crook family."



Lindsay Crook Given Thos Jefferson Award

31 Aug 1967

Lindsay W. Crook of Heber City, Utah, has been selected to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award for his family's outstanding record as volunteer weather observers in the Heber Valley for over 100 years. Most of these observers, like the Crook family, serve without pay.

Crook lives at 518 South 1st West Street in Heber.

Dr. Robert M. White, Administrator of the Environmental Science Service Administration (ESSA), Department of Commerce, announced today.

THOMAS JEFFERSON Awards, created in 1959 by ESSA's Weather Bureau, are made annually to honor volunteer weather observers for unusual and outstanding achievement. The award is named for Jefferson because the statesman-scientist took an almost unbroken series of weather observations from 1776 to 1816.

John Crook, Lindsay Crook's grandfather was one of the ten original settlers of Heber Valley in 1859. He began what has become a family tradition by keeping a daily journal of the weather variables, Indian troubles, and the physical hardships of this pioneer development. He was appointed the official Weather Bureau observer in 1893.

UPON JOHN CROOK'S demise in 1921, one of his sons, H. G. Crook, picked up the program and continued the record until his nephew Lindsay W. Crook, took over in 1939.

The Crooks have maintained the longest continuous weather records made by one family in Utah.

The Weather Bureau has over 12,000 volunteer observers throughout the United States who make and record daily weather observations. The information they gather is processed and published by the Environmental Data Service, another component of ESSA, and is invaluable in recording the nation's clim-

